

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00774 151110Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 NEA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /092 W
-----151133Z 009832 /10

R 151020Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4867
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
USUN NEW YORK 528

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0774

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, UR
SUBJ: MENGISTU VISIT TO MOSCOW

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 3002 (NOTAL); B) MOGADISCIO 0752

1. SOMALI OFFICIAL MEDIA AND LEADERS HAVE BEEN STUDIOUSLY SILENT ABO
UT
ETHIOPIAN COL. MENGISTU'S VISIT TO MOSCOW. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT
MOHAMED SIAD BARRE MADE TWO IMPORTANT SPEECHES OVER LAST FEW DAYS
(MARKING MAY 8 DJIBOUTI REFERENDUM AND MAY 12 INAUGURATION OF
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SOMALI YOUTH ORGANIZATION) WITHOUT MENTIONING VISIT. THIS WAS
NO ACCIDENT AND REFLECTS GSDR EFFORT KEEP LID ON SPECULATION WHILE
IT CONSIDERS ITS POSITION.

2. IF ANYTHING, LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN MARKED BY HEAVY OFFICIAL
EMPHASIS ON GSDR'S ATTACHMENT TO MARXISM-LENINISM AND SOVIET
UNION, AS IF GSDR WERE DELIBERATELY TRYING AVOID EXACERBATION

FO SOMALI-SOVIET RELATIONS AND TO GIVE SOVIETS EVERY OPPORTUNITY
DRAW BACK FROM ALL-OUT SUPPORT OF MENGISTU. THUS, IN HIS SPEECH
OPENING FIRST CONGRESS OF SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH UNION,
SIAD AGAIN REFERRED TO "CAPITALISTS'....INTRUSION" INTO HORN OF
AFRICA AND PREDICTED THAT "THEY WILL SURELY FAIL". SIMILARLY,
FEW REFERENCES TO MENGISTU AND ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN COINED IN
MORE-IN-SORROW-THAN-ANGER TERMS.

3. ALTHOUGH GSDR IS UNDOUBTEDLY VERY SENSITIVE TO ITS APPARENTLY
GROWING ISOLATION IN SO-CALLED PROGRESSIVE CAMP AS RESULT MENGISTU
VISIT TO MOSCOW, ITS CONSIDERED REACTION IS FAR FROM APPARENT.
WE BELIEVE GSDR WILL WANT TO MAKE VERY CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF ANY
ETHIO-SOVIET AGREEMENTS AND INITIATIVES BEFORE MAKING ANY DRAMATIC
MOVES AND, EVEN THEN, WE THINK THERE IS AS MUCH CHANCE THAT SIAD
WILL MAKE SERIOUS ATTEMPT BRIDGE GAP WITH SOVIETS AS OVERT
MOVES TOWARD WEST AND ARABS. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT IN OBSCURE
SITUATION, OBSERVERS ARE OFFERING DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED
PROGNOSTICATIONS. ONE SCHOOL HAD IT THAT SIAD, WORRIED ABOUT
MENGISTU VISIT TO MOSCOW, WOULD MAKE FLYING VISIT TO EUROPE TO
MEET PRESIDENT CARTER. THERE WAS NEVER MUCH CHANCE OF THAT
HAPPENING. OTHER SOURCES SAY THAT SIAD MAY GO TO MOSCOW SHORTLY.
FEW PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS IN SIAD'S MIND BUT A MOSCOW VISIT WOULD
BE LOGICAL. IT WOULD HELP SIAD DETERMINE THE DAMAGE TO SOMALI
INTERESTS DONE BY MENGISTU VISIT AND IT WOULD GIVE HIM
FIRST-HAND OPPORTUNITY TO MEASURE SOVIET INTENTIONS TOWARD
GSDR.

4. WE CONCUR WITH ADDIS ABABA AND MOSCOW THAT MENGISTU VISIT
HAS DONE NOTHING TO ALLEVIATE SOVIET DILEMMA IN TRYING TO RIDE
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TWO HORSES AT ONCE. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW GSDR
WILL REACT AND ALSO HOW READILY GSDR'S OTHER SUITORS,
ESPECIALLY MODERATE ARAB STATES, CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AFTER-
MATH MENGISTU VISIT TO MOSCOW.
JACOBS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ET, SO, UR, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM), (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
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